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November 18, 2009

State Representative Bettie Cook-Scott
State Capitol
Post Office Box 30014
Lansing, Michigan 48909-7514
Fax Number Malika Abdul-Basir
(517) 373-7158

Dear Judiciary Committee Chair Mark Meadows, State Representatives Bettie Cook-Scott, and Shanelle Jackson;

I am writing you to support your legislation House Bill 4098 and your colleagues bill 4101; to amend or repeal the Driver Responsibility Fee which was enacted as Public Act 165 of 2003.

The current law has disrupted what at one time was my primary means of transportation. This was my vehicle and my driver's license. At this time I have neither. I understand that our neighboring state of Ohio does not have the problems created by the Driver Responsibility Fee. They have programs that will help pay to restore a person's driver's license.

I was enrolled in a program of the Friend of the Court known as "Work First." This program paid for my monthly bus passes. I was a part of that program for about three years. During this time the state of Michigan paid at least \$1,800 for these monthly bus passes. I worked in Oakland County since 2001 until 2007. Without a driver's license even a security guard job is not one that I can not perform.

The additional expense of insurance and the fees from late charges, reinstatement fees make it impossible after the three years of trying to return to a driver's license. At the same time of this driver's responsibility fee was enacted I went through a divorce. This event has devastated my life and I have not recovered from it yet. The divorce was finalized in 2003. That is seven years ago.

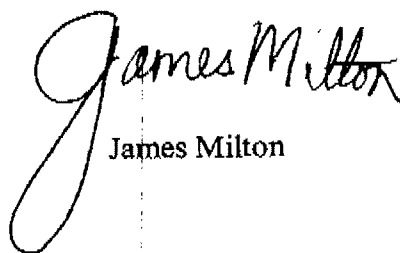
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The driver responsibility fee has not only harmed me but several other persons that I know or worked with. They have not made the effort at short notice to write or fax you their experience as I have.

The Driver Responsibility Fee was impacted and harmed members of my family as well. My mother, who is 77 years of age, should not really be driving. I should be driving her around instead. My daughter who should have a father to take her to activities as she is a cheerleader and future engineering student. Finally it impacts my future wife, who lives in Ohio. I have to take a 10 hour bus trip which is a four hour trip by automobile.

I will not drive illegally and have a vehicle impounded and be arrested because of my situation. I will not take the chance of being behind the wheel of an automobile and not being covered by insurance because I was an unlicensed driver. I look at these two bills as a positive step toward having a restored driver's license. This is something I have prayed for during the past two years.

Sincerely;


James Milton